



Testimony on House Bill 5041

Submitted by Suzanne Bates, Policy Director

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My name is Suzanne Bates. I am the policy director for the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, a Connecticut-based free market think tank.

I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5041.

The state Department of Motor Vehicles should be privatized. Even before the well-documented problems that occurred over the past year, which disrupted the lives of many of our state's citizens, the state DMV did not function smoothly. If lawmakers decide not to privatize the DMV, you should, at the very least, look for ways to privatize additional functions of the DMV.

Government should be efficient, transparent, and accountable. The DMV has been none of these things. This has further eroded trust in the state government. One way you can make things better is by creating a structure within state government that encourages competition.

One way to foster competition, and a better functioning DMV, is by offering a set rate for each properly processed transaction. The payment could be made to the DMV or to a private provider, depending on who completes the transaction. Some have expressed concern about the need to keep public records confidential, but private providers often work with secure data, and both the public and private sector have struggled with security.

Almost every resident in Connecticut comes into contact with the DMV. Making these interactions more pleasant will go a long way in restoring trust in state government.

Thank you.